

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 10, 13, 14, 17, and 20 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

In the Office Action dated April 8, 2003, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. It is submitted that claim 5 has been amended to now recite that the fixed axis of rotation for the idler pivot link is located in a position spaced in between the crank arm of the rotary drive member and one of the wiper shafts to be driven. It is believed that this recitation of the elements clarifies that the pair of spaced wiper shafts are not positively recited as elements of the claimed combination, but are merely referred to in order to identify a location existing between the two elements. Reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is requested.

Claims 1, 4-9, 12, 14-16, and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Great Britain Patent No. 910,501. It is submitted that claims 1, 6, and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended now to recite that the fixed axis of the idler pivot link is provided being separate and independent of the pair of spaced wiper shafts to be driven. It is submitted that this specific structural configuration is not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by the Great Britain Patent No. 910,501. The Great Britain Patent No. 910,501 discloses an idler pivot link 15 which is coaxial with one of the shafts of the pair of spaced wiper shafts to be driven as best seen in Figure 3 of the reference. Claim 6 and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that the idler pivot link means has a fixed axis of rotation spaced from the wiper shafts. It is submitted that this specific structural configuration is not anticipated, taught or rendered obvious by the Great Britain Patent No. 910,501. Reconsideration of the Examiner's objection of claims 1, 4-9, 12, 14-16, and 19 is requested.

The Examiner indicated that claims 2, 10, 13, 17, and 20 stood objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. It is submitted that claims 2, 10, 13, 17, and 20 have been rewritten into independent form. In the process of rewriting the claims, the unnecessary term "means" in the independent claims 6, and 14 have been eliminated in the rewritten claims. All other limitations in the base claims and any intervening claims have been retained. It is submitted that these amendments place claims 2, 10, 13, 17, and 20 in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

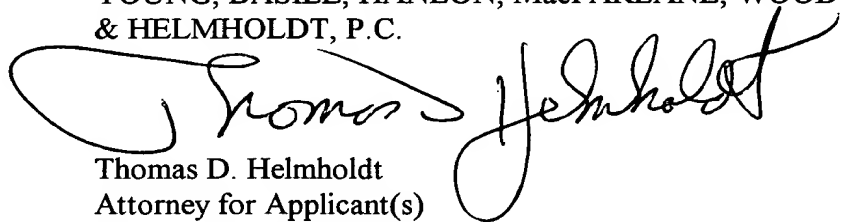
Upon an indication of the allowability of claims 1, 6, and 14, it is requested that the withdrawn claims of 3, 11, and 18 be rejoined to the application as depending from an allowed claim.

It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment traverses and overcomes all of the Examiner's objections and rejections to the application as originally filed. It is further submitted that this Amendment has antecedent basis in the application as originally filed, including the specification, claims and drawings, and that this Amendment does not add any new subject matter to the application. Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment places the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is requested.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present application can be expedited by way of an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG, BASILE, HANLON, MacFARLANE, WOOD
& HELMHOLDT, P.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Thomas D. Helmholdt". The signature is written over the printed name and title of the attorney.

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